Higher cost of CAS

1732. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate monthly charges an individual has to pay for viewing cable TV through CAS/Dish TV and other such systems introduced through MTNL etc. including the initial expenditure;

(b) what is the similar monthly expenditure an individual has to pay under the conventional cable TV without CAS; and

(c) whether it is a fact that entertainment through CAS regime is much costlier and is liable to deprive millions of poor families of their right to entertainment and information and if so, the steps proposed to be taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Total monthly charges will be dependant on the individual choice and scheme of STB and number of pay channels chosen by consumer for viewing. The charges to be paid in the CAS notified areas for receiving TV channels through Cable Network have been prescribed in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Tariff Order dated 31.08.2006. The Tariff Orders are available on the TRAI website www.trai.gov.in

(b) For cable TV in non CAS areas, provisions of Tariff Order dated 01.10.2004 as amended from time to time are applicable. The main feature of this tariff order is that price payable by a subscriber is as prevailing on 26.12.2003, with a subsequent enhancement of 7%. If there are any additional pay channels being provided by the service providers after 26.12.2003, then there is a provision for increase in subscription charges.

(c) Whether the subscribers' monthly bill will go up or go down after implementation of CAS will depend on the present monthly bill, on the number of pay channels one desires to watch and the scheme of Set Top Box which the consumer opts for after introduction of CAS. It is not true that millions of poor families would be deprived of entertainment as a result of CAS implementation.